

# NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

## INFORMATION LETTER

PUBLICATION OR REPRODUCTION NOT PERMITTED

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March 31, 1934

### TOMATO MARKETING AGREEMENT SENT TO CANNERS

A marketing agreement for the tomato canning industry, designed to improve the returns of producers through a schedule of minimum prices which contracting canners would agree to pay for the 1934 crop, has been tentatively approved by Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace. The agreement, which has been revised after an extensive public hearing, has been sent to contracting canners for their signatures.

Minimum prices for flat price buying by canners are provided on a basis that canners shall pay not less than \$2.25 per ton more than the sum stipulated in their 1933 contracts with growers, before canners made the adjustment at the request of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. When buying by grades, canners would be required to pay an increase in price for each grade not less than \$2.25 per ton in excess of the 1933 contract for the same grade; or may increase the price for U. S. Grade No. 2 tomatoes less than \$2.25 per ton, provided that the price for U. S. Grade No. 1 tomatoes is increased at least a corresponding amount above \$2.25. In no event could the increase for No. 2 grade be less than \$1.80 per ton in excess of last year's prices.

Minimum prices for tomatoes purchased in the open market could be established in any region by the regional committee, subject to the approval of the national committee in charge of executing the agreement, and the Secretary of Agriculture. Such minimum prices could not exceed the average contract prices paid for tomatoes in the same district.

New canners, without contracts of last season on which to base their minimum prices, could come under the agreement, and would be required to pay prices not less than the prices paid by other canners in the district for the same type of tomatoes.

Canners would be forbidden, under the agreement, to increase charges for seed plants, fertilizer, containers or other services and supplies above the 1933 contract basis, unless such increases are approved by the regional committee.

Minimum prices for 1935 may be provided, as the contracting canners agree that the Secretary, after consultation with the national committee and opportunity for public hearing, may establish the minimum prices to be effective during the 1935 season.

The agreement, as tentatively approved lacks the allocation of the total tomato pack, as officials in charge of the development of the marketing agreement considered that adequate information on which to base an allocation plan was not available. Under the agreement canners will be required to make complete reports of acreages, yields, and pack.

The national committee, which would supervise the general administration of the agreement, and act as intermediary between the canners and the Secretary, would be made up of one member from each of the 12 regional committees. The regional committees, charged with regional supervision and investigation of any suspected violations of the agreement, would consist of five members each, two of whom would be appointed by the Director of Extension Work in the State or the region having the largest number of canners, and three elected by a majority vote of the contracting canners at a regional election meeting.

#### NOTICE ISSUED ON PEA WEEVIL

The Food and Drug Administration and the Bureau of Entomology of the U. S. Department of Agriculture have issued a joint notice to pea producers, shippers and canners with respect to the pea weevil. This notice is being sent to all pea canners, as well as to secretaries of state canners' associations in the pea canning states. It is here reproduced so that member canners may have it in their permanent files of the Information Letter.

In some parts of the pea producing and canning districts of the United States where the pea weevil is more or less abundant, shippers and canners have paid little attention to inspecting the deliveries of fresh peas in order to avoid receiving infested lots, and shipping or canning them. Weevilly peas are regarded as adulterated under the Federal food and drugs act and producers and canners should institute measures to eliminate infested peas from their product.

Surveys have revealed great variations in the degree of infestation among different lots as received from the growers. Observed percentages of infestation have varied from zero to 58 per cent while even higher percentages have been reported by some observers. Tests can readily be made by taking from any lot in question a composite sample of a sufficient number of pods to yield 200 or more peas. If the peas in the test sample are shelled out and examined, it will be found that the infestation will be indicated by small pin-like punctures in the skin of the peas.

The pea weevil is widely distributed, and is a common pest in the pea-growing regions of this country, especially in some of the dried pea-producing areas of the West. In the East it varies in abundance in different

sections. However, exact information on the sections most seriously affected is not available at this time.

Infestation of peas with the pea weevil takes place in the field by adult weevils laying their eggs on the surface of the developing pods. The incubation period of the egg varies greatly with the temperature, but averages about ten days during the warmer parts of the season. Upon hatching, the grubs burrow through the pod and enter the immature peas, this activity requiring from two to three days. A small dark spot forms at the point that the grub enters the pea. Oftentimes many grubs enter the same pea, but almost without exception only one reaches maturity. When two weevils encounter each other in the pea, they attack and the victor feeds upon the victim. The weevil remains in the pea until the adult stage has been reached. The time required for the development from egg to adult varies also, and may require two months or more. The emergence of the adult weevil from the mature pea may take place shortly after the peas ripen or the weevil may remain in the dry pea over winter, and emerge the following spring as soon as temperatures become favorable. Under some conditions the weevils will remain in the dry peas for two winters.

Observations have shown that the peas in the first pods to form on the vines are more generally infested than the later ones. This is due to the fact that the weevils have a longer time in which to enter the peas. As stated previously, it requires about ten days for the egg to hatch and two to three more for the weevil to find its way into the pea; therefore, the older the peas the more liable they are to be infested. In general there is only one generation of the weevil a year. The winter is passed in the adult stage, either in the infested peas or under the bark of trees or in sheltered crevices. Shortly before the peas bloom, the overwintering weevils may be found in the field. As the blossoms develop, the weevils enter them and feed slightly upon the pollen and petals, but this feeding causes little damage.

Since the control of the pea weevil requires preventive measures, community effort is necessary in order to effectively reduce infestations. The common sources of infestation are:

1. Seed peas which have not been properly fumigated.
2. Locally grown dry peas which are held in storage without proper fumigation.
3. Peas left on the vines after the market crop has been harvested.
4. Peas accidentally scattered in the normal process of harvesting and canning.
5. Peas which for some reason have been left unharvested.
6. Field peas which are grown for seed or forage purposes.
7. Peas grown in the cannery producing area for seed purposes.

Although much research remains to be accomplished upon the pea weevil before definite control methods may be enumerated, the information available to date shows that losses from pea weevil infestation may be reduced greatly by the following measures:

1. All dried peas imported into the canning areas should be thoroughly fumigated at the point of origin, by the recommended methods of fumigating stored peas. Unless it is indicated that such fumigation has been performed, or if any living weevils are found in samples of the peas examined, the fumigation should be conducted as a safety measure. Also, all dried peas of local origin should be fumigated.

2. The plant material on all pea fields should be plowed under, deeply and cleanly, immediately after harvest to check the development of the grubs in the green pods which are left in the field. If necessary, the field should be harrowed to close crevices between clods. Such plowing is not effective after the weevils reach the adult stage, since they are able to make their way to the soil surface from ordinary plowing operations.

3. All vines and shattered peas left around the vinery should be destroyed or utilized, preferably by burning, or by feeding to livestock, or by burying carefully to a depth of at least 8 inches.

4. The hazard of infestation of cannery peas is increased if they are grown in seed producing regions where the weevil is destructive. Similarly, the growing of peas for seed purposes in the cannery regions may increase infestations in the cannery product.

To prevent the inclusion of weevils in cannery peas, the crop should be canned at such a time that will eliminate the majority of the older peas from the pack, since these older peas are likely to be more heavily infested than the younger and more succulent ones.

#### CIRCUIT COURT ACTS ON PEA LABELING CASE

The United States Circuit Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit (Indiana) in a decision on March 14 upheld the decision of the Federal District Court in the case involving the labeling of soaked dry peas under the McNary-Mapes amendment to the Food and Drugs Act.

The Morgan Packing Company sued in the District Court to enjoin the enforcement of the regulations promulgated under the McNary-Mapes amendment by which it was required that canned soaked dry peas bear the legend "Below U. S. Standard. Low Quality But Not Illegal. Soaked Dry Peas." The District Court awarded the Morgan company a permanent injunction, and the government appealed from this decree. The Circuit Court has now affirmed the decree of the lower court, holding that the entire legend with which it was required by the regulations that the canners of soaked dry peas should label their product is unwarranted and unreasonable.

This decision relates only to soaked dry peas canned by the Morgan Packing Company. The government, it is reported, is now considering what action is to be taken as the result of this decision.

#### FLORIDA CELERY AGREEMENT TENTATIVE APPROVAL GIVEN

Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace has tentatively approved and sent to contracting shippers for their signature a marketing agreement designed to improve returns to Florida celery growers through the establishment of a system of orderly marketing for their product.

The agreement would establish a control committee for the industry authorized to determine market requirements with a

view to regulation of shipments so as to bring the best possible prices to producers without unduly increasing costs to consumers. Whenever necessary to improve returns to the growers the volume of celery to be shipped would be prorated equitably among shippers and growers. The proration would be based on the production they have available for market when the plan is made effective. Shippers and growers would have representation on the control body.

# RECOMMENDS REPEAL OF TAXES ON FRUIT JUICES AND SOFT DRINKS

The Revenue Bill of 1933 (H. R. 7835) as passed by the House would repeal the tax on unfermented fruit juices. The bill as reported out by the Senate Finance Committee on March 28 would repeal all the taxes on fruit juices, soft drinks, etc., that were imposed under Section 615 of the Revenue Act of 1932.

## PROPOSED LEGISLATION

The Senate on March 20 passed the bill (S. 2629), referred to in the Information Letter of March 17, creating a fund for the propagation of salmon out of the proceeds which the federal government has received as rental money from commercial fishing interests for seining rights on Sand Island near the mouth of the Columbia River.

A bill (H. R. 8782) was introduced in the House of Representatives on March 22, the purpose of which is to prevent the shipment and sale (whether filled or unfilled) of other than sterilized used packages in interstate commerce which are intended for use or used in the shipment and sale of fresh fruits and fresh vegetables in their natural state, whether or not transported by railroad, boat, or motor vehicle, or by common, contract or private carrier.

An amendment to the Agricultural Adjustment Act making beans a basic agricultural commodity has been introduced by Senator Vendenberg as S. 3152.

## CANNED MILK PRODUCTION AND STOCKS

	1934	1933	Change
	Pounds	Pounds	Per Cent
Total stocks (case goods) March 1:			
Evaporated milk (34 firms).....	112,936,473	101,070,330	+11.74
Condensed milk (7 firms).....	4,774,412	7,827,441	-39.00
Total production (case goods) February:			
Evaporated milk (33 firms).....	95,654,423	104,596,020	- 8.55
Condensed milk (6 firms).....	4,355,285	4,345,857	+ .22

## CANNED FOOD EXPORTS IN FEBRUARY

Exports of canned foods in February showed general increases as compared with February, 1933, increases being re-

ported by the Department of Commerce in canned meats, salmon, sardines and most fruits and vegetables. The monthly statistics follow:

Articles	February, 1933		February, 1934	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
Canned meats, total	902,561	\$181,709	1,504,597	\$450,470
Beef	113,556	25,309	221,056	75,911
Pork	749,424	135,814	1,127,920	346,937
Sausage	50,060	12,576	124,621	27,447
Other	43,521	7,920	51,000	6,175
Canned vegetables, total	1,304,654	110,035	1,459,395	132,680
Asparagus	497,478	58,194	673,082	71,881
Baked beans, and pork and beans	266,472	10,654	178,979	10,424
Corn	90,753	6,040	155,585	10,540
Peas	151,703	12,204	114,751	9,854
Soups	74,808	7,481	81,208	8,656
Tomatoes	100,274	5,292	110,301	7,931
Other	123,106	9,469	174,880	13,400
Condensed milk	526,176	90,369	253,225	31,049
Evaporated milk	2,029,227	150,171	2,597,123	164,404
Canned fruits, total	12,868,471	795,002	15,844,538	1,063,573
Apples and applesauce	737,874	26,167	821,387	30,515
Apricots	390,160	24,734	900,919	58,535
Berries, other	14,261	1,353	41,993	4,116
Cherries	36,615	3,840	87,286	8,475
Fruits for salad	1,139,080	114,984	2,158,805	217,423
Grapefruit	4,851,401	267,510	2,918,182	163,278
Loganberries	186,086	12,067	46,005	4,188
Peaches	2,108,992	120,710	3,350,781	210,957
Pears	2,323,080	141,773	4,355,772	270,846
Pineapple	1,002,189	70,760	961,234	77,927
Prunes	25,666	1,981	44,371	4,130
Other	54,658	3,723	157,683	13,177
Salmon	516,943	45,826	2,675,259	472,291
Sardines	2,732,985	150,547	2,992,339	162,690

#### INFORMATION LETTER INDEX

This week's issue contains an index of articles appearing in the Information Letter during the year 1933. The index is so printed that it can be removed by those who maintain a file of the letters or have them bound, and should be placed immediately after the last number issued December 22.

#### SENATE PASSES TARIFF BILL

The House of Representatives on March 30 passed the bill giving the President power to negotiate reciprocal trade agreements in the interest of foreign commerce. These powers are twofold:

1. They enable him to enter into foreign trade agreements with foreign governments, or their instrumentalities, without Congressional ratification.

2. They authorize the President to raise or lower existing duties up to a limit of 50 per cent, proclaiming any modification of present tariffs within this limit he sees fit.

Although the President has no power under the bill to transfer articles to or from the dutiable or free lists, he was



voted authority to "freeze" items on either of the lists, as a lever in trading abroad.

Only two amendments were made to the bill, and these were offered by the Ways and Means Committee in charge of the measure and said to meet with the approval of the Administration. They would limit the period of operation of the act to three years and prevent the President from reducing or canceling war debts.

#### DAMAGE BY FROST IN NORTHWEST

Frost at Wenatchee Saturday morning, March 24, did undetermined damage to apricots, cherries, peaches, and possibly Delicious apples, according to a report to the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Apricots generally are in full bloom, peaches nearly in full bloom, cherries in the tender stages, and Delicious buds have advanced so that sustained subfreezing temperatures might hurt them.

Reports from Yakima show that soft fruit was seriously hit. This includes apricots, peaches, and cherries. At The Dalles and Hood River heavy frosts are feared to have caused much damage to crops. Reports from The Dalles indicate fruit in the lowlands was badly damaged, although on the higher elevations the trees are believed to have escaped serious harm.

#### COMPLAINT FILED AGAINST FIBRE BOX DEALER

An unfair trade practice has been charged against a Philadelphia dealer in corrugated and fibre boxes in a formal complaint issued by the Federal Trade Commission.

According to the Commission's charges, the respondent stamped corrugated boxes made by the manufacturer from whom it had purchased them, so as to produce the impression that they were actually the product of the respondent company.

The dealer, the complaint says, obtains certain of its corrugated boxes from the manufacturer, authorizing the latter to substitute on the labels the name of the dealer in place of the manufacturer.

This practice, according to the complaint violates rules of the Consolidated Classification Committee made up of representatives of the railroads, requiring, among other things, that each box used for shipping must bear a certificate containing the name of the box maker. These rules are filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission as a part of the freight tariff of the railroad companies.

### ALLOWANCE FOR ACTUAL WAGES IN PRICES OF FOOD AND GROCERY TRADES APPROVED

National Recovery Administrator Hugh S. Johnson on March 22 issued orders providing that retail food and grocery prices shall contain a 6 per cent, and wholesale food and grocery prices a 2 per cent allowance for actual wages of labor. The orders become effective March 31. They were issued pursuant to the "loss limitation" provisions of the codes for the Retail Food and Grocery Trade, and the Wholesale Food and Grocery Trade, prohibiting sales below cost and stipulating that "cost" shall include an allowance for actual wages of labor, to be fixed by the NRA and the national code authority.

The mark up is to be based on the invoice or replacement cost, whichever is lowest, "after deduction of all legitimate trade discounts exclusive of cash discounts for prompt payment of any such product."

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